

DOH Letterhead
October, 2017

Dear Public Water System Purveyor:

You are receiving this letter because you are listed in our database as a Public Water System.

Last May, Perfluorooctanesulfonic and Perfluorooctanoic acids (PFOS and PFOA) were discovered in groundwater wells on the West Plains. These chemicals are part of the Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemical family.

PFOS and PFOA are unregulated contaminants. They do not have a maximum contaminant level in water like nitrate or arsenic. However, the EPA has set a health advisory level for PFOS and PFOA. The level in drinking water is 70 nanograms per liter.

This level has been exceeded in samples from some West Plains wells. Discovery of high PFAS levels in Airway Heights water lead to a recommendation that residents not drink the water for several weeks. The contamination was flushed out of the system, and Airway Heights residents are now supplied with safe drinking water from the City of Spokane.

Since that time, work to address PFAS in drinking water has been progressing on many fronts:

- The State Board of Health is proceeding with the development of water quality standards for PFAS.
- DOH is participating in the development of a statewide Chemical Action Plan (CAP) for PFAS. More information on the CAP can be found at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/RTT/pbt/pfas.html>
- DOH has expressed support for legislation that addresses PFAS contamination. We have also voiced support for legislation that would fund a health study focusing on PFAS.
- DOH staff are attending monthly meetings with FAFB. These meetings help DOH, Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB) and others coordinate efforts to protect public health.

The enclosed map shows previous and current FAFB sampling areas. If you are located in one of FAFB's sampling areas and have not been contacted by FAFB there is still time to contact them and have your well tested. The FAFB Public Affairs Office can be reached at 509-247-5705 or by email at 92arw.pa@us.

If you would like to discuss how PFAS could impact your public water system please contact Stan Hoffman, DOH Office of Drinking Water, at 509-329-2132 or stan.hoffman@doh.wa.gov.

We will keep you updated as this work progresses. Please don't hesitate to contact us at the Department of Health if you have concerns you would like to discuss. Thank you for working with us to protect public health.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Tibbetts
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